

Appl. No. 09/691,308
Amdt. dated October 17, 2003
Reply to final Office action of August 27, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for updating a master copy of a geographic database comprising:

obtaining a report about errors in data that represent geographic features;
identifying a location of at least one of said errors;
determining whether said report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery;
if said report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, obtaining a satellite image containing said location of said error, and
determining from the satellite image appropriate changes to make to the master copy of the geographic database to correct said error in said data that represent said geographic features.

Claim 2 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
prior to the step of obtaining, grouping reports about errors that relate to the same geographic feature.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
prior to the step of obtaining, grouping reports about errors that relate to the same geographic feature so that only one satellite image needs to be obtained to determine the appropriate change to make to the master copy of the geographic database with respect to the data that represent that geographic feature.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
prior to the step of obtaining, grouping reports about errors that relate to geographic features that are located close to each other so that only one satellite image needs to be obtained to determine the appropriate changes to make to the master copy of the geographic database with respect to the data that represent those geographic features.

Claim 5 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
assigning a higher priority to reports about errors that relate to the same geographic feature.

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C/ Claim 6 (currently amended): A method of updating a master copy of a geographic database comprising:

obtaining a report relating to at least one geographic feature;
identifying a location corresponding to said report;
determining whether said report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery;
if said report is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, obtaining a satellite image of the location corresponding to said report;
analyzing the satellite image to determine how to update the master copy of the geographic database; and
updating the master copy of the geographic database.

Claim 7 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the satellite image is obtained by ordering from a commercial satellite image provider.

Claim 8 (original): The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of:
prior to obtaining the satellite image, confirming that a current satellite image is not available in a satellite image archive; and then ordering the satellite image from a commercial satellite image provider.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the satellite image has at least approximately 1 meter accuracy.

Claim 10 (original): The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of:
after the step of obtaining the satellite image, displaying the satellite image at a workstation of a geographic database developer.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 10 further comprising:
indicating a position on the satellite image being displayed wherein the position corresponds to the reported geographic location.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 6 further comprising:
indicating latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to a position of a movable cursor.

Claim 13 (original): The method of Claim 6 further comprising:
while displaying the satellite image at a workstation of a geographic database researcher, displaying geographic features represented by data contained in the master copy of the geographic database at a workstation indicating a position on the satellite image being displayed wherein the position corresponds to the reported geographic location.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 13 further comprising:
overlaying the geographic features represented by the data contained in the master copy of the geographic database over the satellite image being displayed at the workstation.

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Claim 15 (original): The method of Claim 13 further comprising:
displaying the geographic features represented by the data contained in the master copy of the geographic database and the satellite image side-by-side on the workstation.

Claim 16 (original): The method of Claim 10 further comprising:
while displaying the satellite image at a workstation of a geographic database developer, displaying the report submitted by an end user including explanatory text provided therewith.

Claim 17 (original): The method of Claim 6 further comprising:
providing an on-line program accessible to the end users; and
with the on-line program, allowing the end user to submit the report.

Claim 18 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein said satellite image is obtained from an archive.

Claim 19 (original): The method of Claim 18 further comprising:
prior to analyzing said satellite image, confirming that said satellite image was taken recently enough depending on a type of updating to be made to said master copy of said geographic database.

Claim 20 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the satellite image is obtained from a central server of a geographic database developer.

Claim 21 (original): The method of Claim 6 further comprising:
defining a grid that overlays a geographic coverage area corresponding to said geographic database, wherein said satellite image corresponds to a cell of said grid.

Claim 22 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the report relates to roadway geometry.

Claim 23 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the report relates to a placement of a roadway divider.

Claim 24 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the report relates to a number of roadway lanes.

Claim 25 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the report relates to roadway lane widths.

Claim 26 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the report relates to roadway direction restrictions.

Claim 27 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the report relates to a turn restriction along a road.

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Claim 28 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the report relates to whether a road is paved.

Claim 29 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein the report relates to a lake, river, park, or recreational area.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method of updating a geographic database including data that represents geographic features in a geographic region comprising:

obtaining a report indicating a location of an error in data representing the geographic feature in the geographic region;

determining whether said report relates to a type of error that is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery;

if said report does relate to the type of error that is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, obtaining a satellite image of the location;

analyzing the satellite image to determine a correction to the data, said correction to the data accurately representing the geographic feature; and

updating the geographic database with the correction.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of Claim 30 further comprising:

if said report does not relate to a type of error that is suitable for confirmation by satellite imagery, designating the location for review by field inspection.